

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18773

The purpose of this legislation is to approve the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) as a component of the Comprehensive State Water Plan and to provide that the Idaho Water Resource Board prepare and submit for approval to the legislature a funding mechanism needed to implement Phase 1 of the CAMP.

The CAMP was authorized by HCR 28, adopted by the Fifty-ninth Legislature, First Regular Session, and by SCR 136, adopted by the Fifty-eighth Legislature, Second Regular Session. The CAMP establishes a long term program for managing water supply and demand in the ESPA. The CAMP establishes an incremental net change to the ESPA water budget of 600,000 acre feet. The Phase One water budget target is 200,000 to 300,000 acre feet over the next 10 years. The CAMP calls for the establishment of an advisory committee to assist the Board in the development of an implementation plan, which will include establishing mechanisms to collect funds for implementation of Phase 1 from the various participants.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation does not constitute an obligation of State funds but does authorize state agencies to use previously appropriated funds to begin implementation of the CAMP. The Idaho Water Resource Board has a remaining balance in the Water Management Fund of approximately \$100,000 from ESPA CAMP studies and plan development authorized by HB 320 in 2007. The Board intends to use these and other appropriated funds to initiate the CAMP.

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